

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:35 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Plain made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Dr. Sun seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark (arrived at 6:46 p.m.), Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain; Mr. Jeff Dronzek; Dr. Lori McEwen; and Dr. Yan Sun. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced a vote was taken in executive session on January 27, 2017. The vote was 4-2 in support of the motion.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Ms. Randi DeFuso, Cole Teacher discussed the transition from the Cole Junior High to Cole Middle School. She said the school currently has the largest class sizes in the state.

She currently has 30 students in her class.

Mr. Anthony Burnett-Testa, Cole Teacher also discussed the increased class size.

He said his class size has increased from 24 students to 30 students.

Ms. Bethany Friel, Cole Teacher said Cole Middle School was built for 617 students and now has 683 students.

Kelly Smith, Cole Teacher discussed the safety hazard of high class sizes in Science. She said the NSTA recommends no more than 24 students in any high school or middle school class.

Brian Egan, Cole Teacher discussed the increased special education population at Cole and the number of students receiving services or accommodations is 50% per class.

Caitlin Wotherspoon, Cole Teacher, discussed the developmental needs of middle school students and the effectiveness of the middle school model.

Kelli O'Neill, Cole Teacher discussed class size. She said she had

83 students when she began teaching and now has 116.

Ms. JoAnn Mallozzi, Cole Teacher asked what the maximum occupancy is for Cole and the maximum students per classroom. She said she has 31 students in her class now. Dr. Mercurio said he would find out the information and get back to Ms. Mallozzi tomorrow.

IV. Recognitions

a. First Team All State Athletes-Fall 2016

The Committee recognized and congratulated the Fall 2016 All State Athletes.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for January 24, 2017

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Plain, the Committee voted

7-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes.

b. Executive for January 27, 2017

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Dronzek, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the executive minutes. Dr. McEwen abstained.

VI. Superintendent's Report

a. Incident Update

The matter is still under investigation under the supervision of Sgt. Carter as a possible juvenile prank. All schools are reviewing their procedures. The state fire marshal reviewed the overall protocol used at Eldredge and was pleased with the protocols in place. The

district has reached out to Mr. Coyle to do a wrap up of all schools.

b. Screenagers viewing –Cole

The viewing will take place on March 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the EGHS. The topic is pressures on adolescents and the use of screen time.

c. EG AfterProm Update

AfterProm EG takes place on May 17, 2017. If anyone wishes to support the event, contact www.afterpromeg.org.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointments

1. Occupational Therapist, District- Adele Kinslow

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Dronzek, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.

2. Chorus-Appendix B-Cole/EGHS-Jennifer Armstrong

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment. Dr. Mercurio was asked to provide an update on the status of the choral program at a future meeting.

b. Resignation

1. Head Coach Boys' Hockey-EGHS-Sean Fahey

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. McEwen, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.

VIII. Advisory/Subcommittee Updates

a. Finance Committee

Mr. Dronzek did not have any updates.

b. Transportation Subcommittee

The Committee met today and reviewed the one bid that was

received. The bid will need further review and the Committee will look into why the district only received one bid. The walking distance policy was also reviewed and discussion was centered on enforcing/not enforcing the policy next year to maximize the bus route and use of buses.

c. Policy Committee

The Committee met January 30th and had 100% participation. Two members of the public also joined the group. The Committee discussed revisions to education laws during the 2016 legislative session. Members volunteered to review the changes along with current policy to determine if policy changes are needed. The group also reviewed the table of contents in the policy manual and members volunteered to review various policies. The group discussed the current field trip policy, along with proposed revisions

suggested by Dr. McEwen. Proposed revisions to the Non-School Sponsored Trip Policy (draft) were discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2017.

d. Technology

The Committee met on February 1st. The Committee Charge was reviewed and there was discussion whether the two Town Council members should be listed as such and not as community members. Mr. Babson provided an update on technology across the district. There was discussion regarding Internet filtering. All recommendations will be presented to the Policy Committee. Collaborative opportunities with the town continue to be

investigated. Mr. Babson discussed the long-term savings by hosting Aspen. The 1:1 technology at the EGHS is at the end of the three-year lease. There has been discussion whether to purchase or lease. Purchasing looks to be the most cost effective.

IX. Budget Workshops

a. Facilities

Mr. Wilmarth provided a summary of the FY2018 budget, which has a proposed 6.0% increase over FY2017. Mr. Wilmarth gave an overview of his staff, which totals 25 employees. Capital improvements are the largest increase (\$100,000). This would restore the dollars back to FY2016 levels. Mr. Wilmarth said this line has items that have been deferred for over a decade. The electrician's van was proposed last year, but still has not been purchased. The van is thirteen years old and has about 150,000 miles. It was in the shop over the summer and a chunk of the engine was replaced. Mr. Wilmarth discussed the energy grant and said the district has not realized the savings yet. Ideas and opportunities were discussed including renting the fields and possibly renting kitchen space. Solar opportunities have been discussed with the town. All products used are "green" with the exception of the floor finish.

b. Technology

Mr. Babson gave an overview of the FY2018 budget, which has a proposed 27.7% increase over FY2017. The largest increase is for hardware, which includes a Chromebook refresh for EGHS. The current lease expires in October 2017. The Chromebooks have a five-year shelf life from release. Mr. Dronzek asked if the district

could pay for the Chromebooks in two installments. The Applications Developer position is included in the budget. This union position has been challenging to fill due to the salary. Mr. Babson has met with the town numerous times to discuss collaboration opportunities.

c. Administration

Dr. Mercurio summarized the administration budget, which includes the superintendent's office and the fiscal office. The proposed budget is a 2.8% increase over FY2017. Dr. Mercurio discussed improvements that are needed in the central office including HVAC, abatement, replacement of windows, etc. The central office is not user friendly or flexible. One major concern is the lack of private confidential space especially in HR/Finance. Dr. Mercurio detailed the purchase of services line, which includes many programs that support HR (AESOP, School Spring, etc.) The increase in the performing arts line will alleviate the pressure individual PTGs have with donations to COA each year. There was discussion regarding the part time curriculum consultant who is paid by Title 2 funds. Dr. McEwen asked how the work is overseen, monitored, and enhanced. She asked for clarity on how the work is delegated and completed. Dr. Mercurio said the cost for a full time curriculum administrator is \$150-\$170,000. Principals' have been handling a lot of the work that would be done by a full time administrator.

X. Discussion

a. Teaching and Learning: Video resources

This item was tabled.

b. FY2018 Budget Schedule (Town)

The Committee discussed possibly changing the hearing and adoption dates from

March 7 and March 21 to March 14 and 28. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. FY2018 Budget

There were no items to discuss.

d. School Committee meeting venue

The Committee discussed the pros/cons of using the Cole library and discussed other venues such as Hanaford, the EGHS auditorium, and Swift. Mr. Wilmarth said there are overtime costs (custodial) for any elementary school.

XI. School Committee Concerns/Important Matters Pending

No items were discussed.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Dronzek, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY